MAY 8, 1788.] [VOL. V. NUM. 1.

The Berkshire Chronicle.

FREE AS THE SAVAGE ROAMS HIS NATIVE WOOD,——OR FINNY NATIONS CLEAVE THE BRINY FLOOD.

PITTSFIELD, PUBLISHED BY *ROGER STORRS*, NEAR THE MEETING-HOUSE.

TO THE PUBLIC.

AS every Production in the literary *World is ushered to the Reader by a PREFACE, either to explain it's Design and Excellencies, or to crave Pardon for it's Defects: The* Publisher *hereof will only observe, that the* Design *of this is not only to inform the Mind, but to reform the Manners, and please the Fancy of those who delight in Things* new *and* entertaining. *For this Purpose no Endeavours shall be wanting on* HIS *Part; and by his* unremitted Exertions *to please, he doubts not to* merit *and* receive *the Countenance and Support of the Public.* ROGER STORRS.

Commerce.

The following interesting intelligence is copied from La Gazette de France, *printed at Paris, under the royal sanction; and received by the* Juno, *from Havre de Grace, arrived in New-York.*

Letter from *M. Lambert*, Counsellor of State and of the Council royal of Finance and Commerce, Comptroller General of Finance, to *M. Jefferson*, Minister Plenipotentiary for the United States of America at the Court of Versailles.

Versailles, December 29, 1787.

I HAVE the honour, Sir, to send you a copy of an Arret passed in Council, for encouraging the commerce of the United Sates in France. I shall furnish you with a number of others as soon as they shall be printed.

You will therein see that several considerable favours, not before promised to the American commerce, have been added to those which the King announced to you, in the letter addressed to you on the 22d of October of the last year.

If in the mean time any duties have been levied, contrary to the intentions of that letter, they shall be repaid on sight of the vouchers.

I have also ordered a verification of the facts whereon it was represented to you, that the decision of the 24th of May, 1786, relative to the commerce of tobacco, had not been fully executed. Be assured, that if it shall appear that engagements have been evaded, which were taken under the sanction of the King, effectual provision shall be made for their scrupulous fulfilment.

You will also learn with pleasure that the measures I have taken to prevent the interruption of the commerce of tobacco, have had full success.

This commodity shall not be excepted from among those to which the right of entrepot is given. The Farmers General shall have no preference in the purchases; the proprietors shall be perfectly masters of their speculations, and free to export their tobaccos by sea to foreign countries.

Measures only must be taken to prevent those frauds to which the entrepot might serve as a pretext; and the Chambers of Commerce for the ports shall be consulted, in order that the precautions necessary for this purpose, may not be in a form incompatible with that liberty which commerce ought to enjoy in its operations.

Although the present stock of the Farmers General amounts to about 3 years consumption, I have engaged that company to continue to purchase yearly from the first day of January 1788, to the end of their lease, fourteen thousand hogsheads of tobacco brought directly into the ports of France, in French or American bottoms, and to shew, at the end of every four months, that their purchases amount to four thousand six hundred and sixty-six hogsheads.

As to the prices, you have been sensible yourself of the necessity of leaving them free; and this freedom of price was the principal object of the applications of the American and French merchants when they complained of the contract of Mr. Morris.

The determination then taken to force the purchases of tobacco, tho' at high prices, (insomuch that the farmers general now find themselves possessed of three years provision) shews that the interests of the planters and merchants of the United States of America have ever been precious to the King.

The arret of Council herein inclosed, and the other regulations which I have the honour of communicating to you, are a further confirmation of a truth tending so much to strengthen the bands which unite the two nations.

I have the honour to be, with a very sincere and inviolable attachment, Sir, your most humble and obedient servant,

Signed, LAMBERT.

An ACT of the King's Council of State, for the encouragement of the Commerce of France with the United States of America.

December, 29, 1787.

Extract from the Records of the Council of State.

THE King, desirous of encouraging the commerce of his subjects with the United States of America, and of facilitating between the two nations connexions reciprocally useful: Having heard the report of the Sieur Lambert, Counsellor of State, and of the Royal Council of Finance and Commerce, Comptrollergeneral of Finance, His Majesty being in his Council, has ordained, and does ordain as follows:

ARTICLE 1. Whale oils and spermaceti, the produce of the fisheries of the citizens and inhabitants of the United States of America, which shall be brought into France directly in French vessels, or in those of the United States, shall continue to be subjected to a duty only of seven livres ten sols the barrel of five hundred and twenty pounds weight, and whale fins be subject to a duty of only six livres thirteen sols four deniers the quintal, with the ten sols per livre on each of the said duties; which ten sols per livre shall cease on the last day of December one thousand seven hundred and ninety, his Majesty reserving to himself to grant further favours to the produce of the whale fisheries carried on by the fishermen of the United States of America, which shall be brought into France in French vessels, or in those of the United States, if, on the information which his Majesty shall cause to be taken thereon, he shall judge it expedient for the interest of the two nations.

2. The other fish-oils, and dry or salted fish, the produce in like manner of the fisheries of the citizens and inhabitants of the United States, and bro't also directly into France, in their, or in French vessels, shall not pay any other nor greater duties, than those to which the oils and fish of the same kind, the produce of the fisheries of the Hanseatick towns, or of other the most favored nations, are or shall be subject in the same case.

3. The manufacture of candles and tapers of spermaceti shall be permitted in France, as that of other candles and taper.

4. Corn, wheat, rye, rice, peas, beans, lentils, flax-seed, and other seeds, flour, trees and shrubs, pot-ash and pearl-ash, skins and fur of beaver, raw hides, fur, and peltry, and timber, brought from the United States directly into France, in French vessels, or in those of the United States, shall not be subject but to a duty of one eighth per cent. on their value.

5. Vessels built in the United States, and sold in France, or purchased by Frenchmen, shall be exempted from all duties, upon proof that they were built in the United States.

6. Turpentine, tar and pitch, the produce of the United States of America, and brought directly into France in French vessels, or in those of the